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FOREIGN NEWS ON APPLES

EUROPEAN APPLE PROSPECTS IN MID-AUGUST

Mid-August reports on the apple crop in continental Europe, just received in the Department of Agriculture from Agricultural Commissioner Haas at Vienna, confirm earlier reports of a very light crop throughout Europe and indicate an even smaller crop than previously reported for Switzerland, one of the important commercial producing districts. The shortage in Czechoslovakia has resulted in the issuance of an order prohibiting the exportation of fruit from the most important exporting districts.

Switzerland:

Reports of the prospective fruit crop in Switzerland continue to be unfavorable, according to the latest information. The last estimate based on conditions July 1 indicates an apple crop only about 55 per cent of last year and a pear crop of about 30 per cent of last year's crop. Apple production earlier in the season was estimated at approximately 75 per cent of last year, when the crop was considered about an average crop for the last ten years. Unfavorable weather during blossoming time and recent heavy drop as a result of dryness and insect damage are responsible for existing conditions.

Czechoslovakia:

Czechoslovakian apple production is not expected to exceed one-half of last year's crop. The pear crop is almost a complete failure and is not expected to be more than 20 per cent of last year's production. Czechoslovakia is one of the important apple producing countries competing with the United States in northern European markets.

The prospective shortage of fruit has caused considerable concern, and resulted in an official conference in Prague, early in August, to consider the fruit situation, according to press reports. The Czechoslovakian government shortly thereafter, according to the Central European Observer at Prague, after preliminary inquiry into the matter, has issued an order prohibiting the exportation of all fruit from Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia, the most important producing districts in Czechoslovakia. If this measure does not bring prices within the reach of the great mass of consumers, especially in the large towns, the government will control the sale of fruit by fixing maximum prices. The order does not apply to Slovakia and Carpathian Ruthenia.

According to the 1924 estimates, Bohemia produced 61 per cent of the total apple crop and 70 per cent of the pear crop, while Moravia and Silesia together produced about 18 per cent of the total apple crop and 15 per cent of the pear crop. Provisional estimates of the 1924 apple and pear crops, furnished by the Czechoslovakian Ministry of Agriculture are 10,960,000 bushels for apples and 6,973,000 bushels for pears. On the basis of these figures, this year's crop of apples will be approximately 5,479,000 bushels, and the pear crop only about 1,396,000 bushels. The official estimates for the years 1920 to 1924 are as follows:

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Apple and pear production, 1920-24.

Year	:	Apples	:	Pears
	:	<u>Bushels</u>	:	<u>Bushels</u>
1920	:	16,256,000	:	6,517,000
1921	:	7,662,000	:	6,743,000
1922	:	14,790,000	:	7,348,000
1923	:	8,517,000	:	4,829,000
1924	:	10,960,000	:	6,973,000

Italian Tyrol:

Reports continue to indicate a very small crop in this district. The short crop of both apples and pears is due to rains and cool weather during blossoming time. Insects are also doing considerable damage. One correspondent estimates the apple, pear and apricot crop one-tenth of last year's production, according to Mr. Haas.

Austria:

The crop in Austria will not exceed 30 or 40 per cent of that of the crop of last year, according to an estimate furnished by "Deutsche Landwirtschaftsgesellschaft." Last year's crop was considerably above average, however, and the present crop will be about 60 per cent of a ten-year average production. The unfavorable outlook is caused by conditions similar to those that have existed in Czechoslovakia and Italy.

Hungary:

The Hungarian crop is also small and will probably be one-half of last year's production. The apricot and small fruit crop, however, was very good. The import regulations of the neighboring countries made it practically impossible to export the surplus and much of the crop is said to have been wasted. Apricot prices in Hungary were so low that some of the fruit was not even picked.

